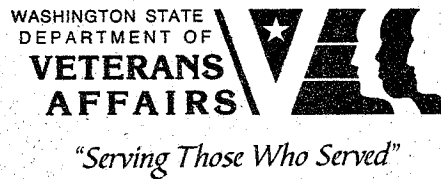


# Memorandum of Understanding

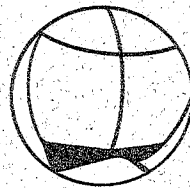
between the

## Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs



and the

## Washington Association of Churches



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Washington State is home to nearly 700,000 veterans. Their honorable military service means they are entitled to a host of benefits ranging from education to health care to home loans and employment. Often, veterans and families have entitlements to benefits, but simply do not know they are eligible or how to access them. The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs is a state agency whose vision statement includes helping veterans and families access their benefits and entitlements.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define a new partnership between the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs and the Washington Association of Churches creating a Veterans Support Network within Washington's communities of faith.

The Veterans Support Network will generate awareness, among clergy and lay-people, that programs and services are available to Washington's veterans and their families and to define a path for these faith-based communities to refer veterans to WDVA for additional assistance.

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Through this MOU, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs commits to:

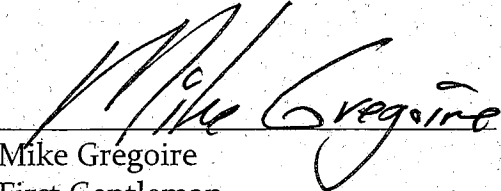
- Contacting all veterans and families referred to WDVA by the Washington Association of Churches to provide information, service and assist with applications for benefits;
- Assisting at training events in locations around the state with briefings and other resources as requested and available in order to provide clergy and lay-people with a core set of cultural competencies around veterans issues;
- Encouraging faith communities to use the Veteran Support Network to foster social support, acceptance and a welcoming environment that acknowledges the contributions of veterans in our communities;
- Providing brochures and other available printed materials to Washington Association of Churches for use in training events and marketing and education campaigns and attending conferences and functions sponsored by the Washington Association of Churches to provide education and services; and
- Including information on the WDVA web page, newsletter and electronic ListServ highlighting the Washington Association of Churches partnership, and publicizing training events in order to generate interest from members of communities in places where the training events are held.

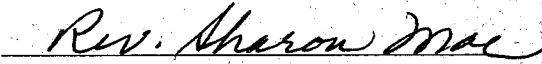
The Washington Association of Churches commits to:

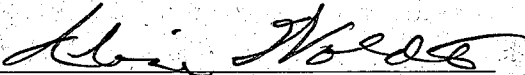
- Communicating with faith communities throughout Washington State that it is important for all denominations and faith traditions to participate in the Veterans Support Network;
- Forming a Washington Association of Churches Committee for the Veterans Support Network to plan workshops;
- Conducting workshops at locations throughout the state in areas where clergy and lay-people have expressed interest in learning more about how they can support veterans and families within their communities;
- Utilizing the Washington Association of Churches website, ListServ and newsletter to provide information and generate awareness and enthusiasm around the importance of recognizing and assisting current and former military personnel;
- Promoting WDVA as a source of services and benefits available to veterans and their families;
- Developing appropriate forms of recognition for places of worship who have completed training, to demonstrate to all community members that local churches of all denominations and faith traditions are working together to support veterans and their families.


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The undersigned agree to make every effort to further the goals of the Washington Association of Churches Veteran Support Network to ensure veterans and their families are welcomed and supported in faith-based communities across Washington State.

  
Mike Gregoire  
First Gentleman  
Office of the Governor

  
Rev. Sharon Moe  
Board Chair  
Washington Association of Churches

  
Alice Woldt  
Executive Director  
Washington Association of Churches

  
John E. Lee  
Director  
Washington State Department of  
Veterans Affairs